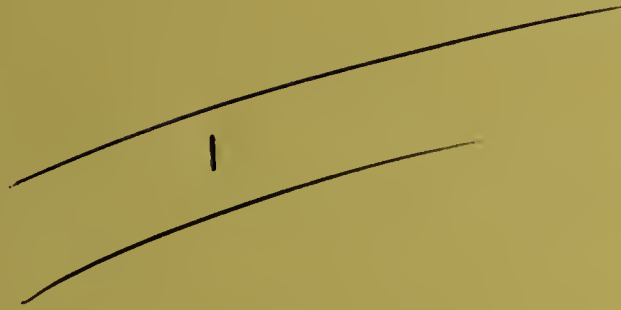


SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1963



Medical Officer of Health : NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : J. E. FANNON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

26th May, 1964.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1963.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

Measles was epidemic during the year, otherwise there was no increased incidence of notifiable disease.

I have to record that by the end of the year no additional assistance had been provided to enable the Public Health Inspector to meet the increasing demands being made on his time and energy, to the detriment of statutory public health duties.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Sartin and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Bob Brown

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 3

A. Area - 41,481 acres
Rateable value: 1st April 1964 - £114,026
Production of a penny rate: 1963/64 - £451 (est)
1964/65 - £479 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 6,140

LIVE BIRTHS

		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
		(a) Sherborne R.D.	(b) England & Wales
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
Total	53	57	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	1	Nil	resident pop:
			= 17.9
		20.4	18.2

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1,000
			live & stillbirths
			= Nil
		Nil	17.3

DEATHS

Total	41	35	Rate per 1,000
			resident pop:
			= 12.4
		12.1	12.2

Deaths in				
infants under				
1 year	1	-	Infantile death	
4 weeks	1	-	rate per 1,000	
1 week	1	-	live births	
			= 9.1	9.1
				20.9

		<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
"	" Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
"	" Cancer of the Lungs	2	3	3	Nil
"	" Other Cancer	13	6	12	5
"	" Coronary Disease(Angina)	12	7	10	12
"	" Other heart or vascular diseases	28	16	18	25
"	" Influenza	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
"	" Pneumonia	5	1	3	2
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
"	" All other accidents	1	Nil	2	Nil
"	" Suicide	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
"	" Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

The district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district. A large dairy, with a wide supply area, is situated within the district.

The district is becoming increasingly a dormitory area for persons working in Sherborne and Yeovil.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provide the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations

Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

An immunisation treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During the year the following treatments were carried out -

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
<u>Poliomyelitis</u>			
Two treatments (Salk)	11	84	299
Three treatments (Salk or	177	446	313
Four treatments Oral)	162	55	462
<u>Diphtheria</u>			
Primary treatments	98	107	65
Booster treatments	67	71	35
<u>Whooping Cough</u>			
Primary treatments	93	92	59
Booster treatments	48	24	13
<u>Tetanus</u>			
Primary treatments	130	177	92
Booster treatments	55	117	29
<u>Smallpox</u>			
Primary vaccinations	11	149	67
Re-vaccinations	12	225	3

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is rather less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - J.E. Fannon,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector, Refuse Disposal and Maintenance of the Council's sewage schemes, and drainage bye-law administration

Clerical Assistance - One Clerk (Part time)

As reported previously, an increasing proportion of time is being spent on sewerage and drainage work. The development of private building sites, where adoption of the sewers by the Council is being considered, means that more frequent and regular inspection must be made of the works in progress. Such work is time consuming and as a result the routine public health and housing inspection duties are having to be neglected to a large extent. There appears to be no sign of any reduction in private building and as new sewerage schemes mature it is even likely to increase.

By the end of the year no action had been taken to remedy this unsatisfactory situation.

WATER SUPPLY

The Wessex Water Board took over management of the public water supplies in the district on the 1st October. Routine sampling of these supplies, however, still remains a statutory public health duty of the local authority and there is no reduction in your officers' responsibility in this regard. It is regretted that the number of samples taken during the year is less than previously but this is just one more indication of the serious staffing problem.

Water supply in the district has remained adequate in quantity and for the most part, quality. One small private supply to a small area in the district has given unsatisfactory bacteriological results.

<u>Samples</u>	<u>Bacteriological</u>	<u>Chlorine Estimation</u>
<u>Public Supplies</u>		
Northern Parishes	17	4
<u>Private Supplies</u>		
Stockwood	1	-
Nether Compton	4	-
Bradford Abbas	4	-
Poyntington	1	-
<hr/>		
Totals	27	4
<hr/>		

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Bradford Abbas Development has continued in this village and when all the projected houses are occupied the population being served by the sewerage scheme is likely to exceed the designed capacity of the disposal works. Careful, regular maintenance can probably continue to secure an effluent acceptable to the River Board but strict supervision and regular sampling will be necessary. Nevertheless there is little doubt that enlargement of this disposal works will eventually be required.

Yetminster Another year has passed with no visible progress on this scheme due it is understood, to pressure of work upon your Consultant Engineers. This long period between the Council's decision to proceed and the actual commencement of works emphasises the need for early planning of future schemes.

Oborne No improvement has been found possible in the unsatisfactory drainage of your twelve Council houses in this village. As has been noted in previous reports the difficulty lies in the acquisition of land at a sufficient distance from the houses to avoid nuisance. Your officers are looking into new developments in the field of 'package' disposal plants which it is claimed can be operated without offence on restricted sites. It may be that here will be found a solution to this long standing problem.

Thornford, Alweston & Trent There has been a satisfactory increase in the number of existing properties connected to these village sewers, especially by estate owners.

General Where sewers are available one is beginning to see a general improvement in the standard of housing in those fortunate villages.

Private development is increasing in the district and in areas without public sewers septic tank drainage is the only practical solution. These appliances at best are a poor substitute for main drainage and if not carefully maintained can give rise to serious nuisance. Regular inspection and attention is vital if nuisance is to be avoided but more often than not these tanks are completely neglected until trouble occurs.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse Collection The monthly collection of domestic refuse has been maintained but disposal at the Thornford site is becoming increasingly difficult. Negotiations were begun, in co-operation with the Urban District Council, towards the acquisition of a new site to be used jointly by the two authorities and these were proceeding at the end of the year. It is likely to be some time before such a site can be brought into use and your officers are endeavouring to make other temporary arrangements.

Salvage Scheme Salvage was sold during the year to a value of £30.3s.4d. A slight increase over the previous year. Some waste paper was sold, unbaled, but the income for this was off-set by a number of breakings in and theft of metal from your Thornford store.

Cesspool Emptying The contract for this work at the Council's housing sites has continued and is operating satisfactorily.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

As anticipated in last year's report your inspector had to devote a good deal of time to complying with the immediate conditions of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961.

Applications were made for consent in respect of all your sites making discharge to streams and a full investigation was carried out in company with the Rivers Board Inspectors.

The report from the Board is awaited and it is expected that whilst consents will be granted for a limited period conditions will be laid down for an early improvement to many of your disposal plants particularly on the smaller housing sites.

The Board's investigations will, of course, extend to private properties as well and where offending discharges are found the Public Health department will be involved in securing the abatement of nuisance.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was called for or taken during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures are omitted)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	6
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	8
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	-
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 14

No case was referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

No. of outworkers - Nil

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one open air bath at a private establishment where members of the public have occasional access by invitation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Thirteen sites were licensed during the year under the Caravan Sites (Control and Development) Act, 1960. They were all for individual caravans, usually for temporary use and created no problem.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was called for or taken during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The work of the Committee continued to function smoothly and expeditiously.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Sixteen visits and inspections were made at schools in respect of sanitation, meals facilities and water supplies.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention, although it appeared that action would be required in one case. Fortunately, the patient ultimately consented to go into hospital voluntarily.

HOUSING

Total No. of houses in the district 2,131

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year 3
No. of inspections made 11

No. of informal notices served Nil

No. of informal notices complied with Nil

No. of statutory notices served 4

No. of statutory notices complied with 8

No. of houses reported under Section 16
of the Housing Act, 1958 3

Action taken by the Local Authority in
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made 2

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure 2

Reconditioning 1

Other Action (Demolition) Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during
the year Nil

It is noted that only three houses were inspected during the year compared with twenty three in the preceding year and forty in 1961.

Slum Clearance

Very limited action was taken during the year with regard to slum clearance. An appreciable number of houses in the district are recognised as being unfit for habitation but in the absence of new houses being made available for re-housing, limited action only is practicable in enforcing closure or demolition of unfit property.

Some of these unfit houses are slowly being rendered fit. It is in respect to such property, largely, that discretionary improvement grants are sought.

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

Houses Known to be Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

Thirty three applications (compared with thirty four in 1962) were received during the year for discretionary grants under the above-mentioned Act, twelve applications were received in respect to standard grants compared with eighteen during the preceding year.

The provision of standard grants is undoubtedly a most valuable step towards making properties lacking basic amenities more habitable and it is only regretted that an increasing number of such grants are not sought, particularly in respect to rented property.

Provision of New Houses and Re-Housing

Eighty three new houses were built in the district by private enterprise (compared with sixty four in 1962) and four by the District Council.

Although during the year the Council only built four new houses (old people's bungalows) it is satisfactory to note that the Council has now adopted a policy of renewed unrestricted building both for old peoples dwellings as well as for general purpose needs.

The Council house waiting list still reflects a present shortage of houses to let in the district and any action to ameliorate the conditions under which some of these applicants are living is welcomed.

One hundred and eleven applicants were on the Council house waiting list at the end of the year, of which eighty three were resident in the district, compared with seventy four and twenty one respectively, at the end of 1962.

Twenty six applicants were re-housed by the Council during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council _____ 3

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration _____ 1

No. of 'Distributors' subject to registration _____ 3

Samples

Three hundred and thirteen samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Again, complaints were received during the year, from outside the district, in respect to alleged unclean milk bottles filled at a dairy in your district. This matter requires constant attention and supervision.

Milk & Dairies(General)Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No formal action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	19
Canteens - School and workplace	2
Confectioners	2
Meat and Fish	1
Grocers	-
Mixed Stores	20
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	3
Food Factories	3
Stalls (Mobile shops)	1
Other (Slaughterhouses)	1

No. of above-mentioned subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice cream	20
Sausages & Prepared Meats	1
Fish and Chips	Nil

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test Nil

No. of above-mentioned premises inspected during the year 15

The efficiency of a public health department can be measured by the extent to which adequate supervision of premises where food is prepared or sold, is carried out.

Unless all such premises are inspected at least twice a year (with any necessary follow up visits) the department is failing to carry out its minimal duty.

This is, I regret to report, the position in your district at the present time, as the above figures show.

Ice Cream(Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947 -1952

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food etc.

These byelaws are operative within the district.

Slaughterhouses

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	119	-	-	6	3
Number inspected	119	-	-	6	3
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.04	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	<u>1,126</u>
Total No. of informal notices served	<u>13</u>
Total No. of informal notices complied with	<u>8</u>
Total No. of statutory notices served	<u>6</u>
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>10</u>
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests that no deterioration has taken place in the position.

No premises in the district are registered under the Radioactive Substances Act which came into operation towards the end of the year.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

Total Cases
Notified

Disease

Measles	126
Pneumonia	4
Scarlet Fever	3

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
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100	100

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Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

